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1941.

ANNUAL REPORT.
AND
VITAL STATISTICS
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF KNUTSFORD.

BY

ARTHUR T. BLEASE.

M.B. Ch. B.Vict, M.R.C.S.E.
L.R.C.P.L.
Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District,

and also for the Rural District of Bucklow.

Medical Adviser to the North Cheshire Joint
Hospital Board.

KNUTSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLORS G.B.MASON, J.P. CHAIRMAN.
E. WALDRON, J.P. CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL.
P. HARWOOD.
F. JENNINGS.
F. JOHNSON, M.C.
J. NORBURY.
A.E.PERCY.
W. SHAW.
E.S.THOMAS.
A. TOWNSEND.
F. WINDGOOSE.
J.T.WOOD.

Co-opted Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

Miss. H.L. ASHWORTH. Mrs. G.B.MASON.
Mrs. M.A.LEWIS. Mrs. MARSHALL RIGBY.

J. H. YATES.
Clerk to the Council.

( ) + A.T.BLEASE, M.B. Ch.B.VICT, M.R.C.S.E. L.R.C.P.L.
Medical Officer of Health.

X + GEO. R. BUTLER, M.S.I.A. A.R.SAN.I.
Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector & Cleansing Superintendent.

() A. E. LEES, M.B. Ch.B.
Medical Officer, Child Welfare Centre.

() MRS. ALEXANDER
Measles and Whooping Cough Visitor.

() Part Time
+ Salary Contribution by Exchequer Grants
X Whole Time.

PART 1.

Area of District 2,491 Acres.
Height above Sea Level 210 feet.
Registrar General's estimate of Population 6210.
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1941) per rate book 1761.

Rateable Value. £43, 966.

Sum represented by a penny rate - Gross - £179. 1. 7d.
Nett - £175. 6. 8d.

Birth Rate per 1000 living 10.0

General Birth Rate (England & Wales) 14.2

Death Rate per 1000 living 12.2

General Death Rate (England & Wales) 12.9

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of childbirth, 1.
Deaths under 1 year in proportion to 1,000 Births 15.
" " " " " (England & Wales) 59.

Deaths from Cancer. 11.
Deaths from Measles. 0.
Deaths from Whooping Cough 2.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years old) 0.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 77 of which 43 were persons of over 65 years, and 2 were children under 1 year old.

PART 11. TABLES.

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1941 and two previous years.

Year.	Population. For Birth Rate.	Population. For Death Rate.	Births. No.	Births. Rate.	Total Deaths Reg: in the District.	Transferable Deaths. Non Residents Reg. in District.	Transferable Deaths. Residents not Reg. in District.
1939	6346	6413	79	10.6	209	138	11
1940	6306	6306	82	13.0	96	42	20
1941	6210	6210	63	10.0	61	7	23

Nett Deaths Belonging to District				
Under 1 year No.	Rate per 1000	At all ages No.	Rate.	Year.
2	25	82	10.9	1939
2	24.4	74	11.5	1940
1	15	77	12.2	1941

TABLE 11.

Diseases Notified under Acts and Orders during 1941.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified. At all Ages.	At Ages - Years. Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and Upwards.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.
Small-pox									
Measles	58	1	21	32	1	2	1		
Cholera - Plague.									7
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup).	7		2	1	2	1	1		
Erysipelas.	2					1	1		3
Scarlet Fever.	3			3					
Typhus Fever.									
Whooping cough.	27	1	15	10	1				4
Enteric Fever & Para-typhoid B.	4			3	1				
Relapsing Fever									
Continued Fever									
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2				1	1			
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.									
Poliomyelitis.									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.									3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	3					3			
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	4			3	1				2
Pneumonia.	2			1			1		
Malaria.									
Encephalitis Lethargica.									
Totals.	112	2	38	53	7	8	4		19

TABLE 111.

Deaths Registered during the Calender Year 1941, classified by age and cause.

Causes of Death	Nett Deaths at the subjoining ages of "Residents" whether occuring within or without the District.									Total deaths whether of residents or non-residents in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
All Causes (Certified	77									9
(Un- "	0									0
Enteric Fever (Para-B)	1				1					
Small-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping cough	2			2						
Diphtheria and Croup										
Influenza	1								1	
Encephalitis Lethargica	1							1		
Erysipelas										
Cerebro-spinal Fever										
Phthisis (Pul. Tuberc)	3						2	1		
Tuberculosis Meningitis	1				1					
Other Tuberculous Dis.										
Cancer, Malignant Dis.	11						3	1	7	1
Diabetes										
Rheumatic Fever										
Meningitis										
Aneurism										
Organic Heart Disease	19						2	8	9	1
Bronchitis	4							1	3	
Pneumonia (all forms)	4						1	1	2	2
Other Dis. of Resp.Organ										
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum										
Other digestive Dis.										
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)										
Appendicitis & Typhlitis	1							1		2
Cirrhosis of Liver										
Other Liver diseases										
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2								2	2
G.P.I. Tabes, etc.,	1						1			
Alcoholism										
Syphilis										
Nephritis & Bright's Dis	2							1	1	1
Arterio-sclerosis	7								7	
Puerperal Fever										
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition.	1						1			
Congenital Debility & Malformation including Premature Birth.	1	1								
Violent Deaths, exclud -ing Suicide.	2								2	
Road Accidents	2			1		1				
Suicide										
Senility.	6								6	
Other Defined Diseases	5						1	1	3	1
Diseases ill-defined or unknown										
Totals	77	1		3	2	1	11	16	43	10

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1941 Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 wks & under 3 months	3 mths & under 6 months	6 mths & under 9 months	9 mths & under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 Year,
All causes (Certified 1 (Un- " 0										
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough										
Diphtheria & Croup										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Abdominal Tuberculosis										
Other Tuberculous Dis.										
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)										
Convulsions										
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis										
Pneumonia (all forms)										
Diarrhoea										
Enteritis										
Gastritis										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying										
Injury at Birth										
Atelectasis										
Congenital Malformations						1				1
Premature Birth										
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus										
Other Causes										
Totals						1				1

Nett Births registered during the calendar year -legitimate 60, illegitimate 3.
Nett Deaths " " " " " -legitimate infants 1
illegitimate infants 0

Still-births - legitimate 3 illegitimate 0.

TABLE V - Notifications of Infectious Diseases.

Year.	Small-pox	Scarlet	Diphtheria	Enteric	Puerperal	Erysipelas	Phthisis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Pneumonia	Total
1939		14	41		4		1	5	10	75
1940		1	5	1			3	1	6	17
1941		3	7	4	2	2	3	4	2	27

TABLE V1

Deaths from Special Diseases.

Year.	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Enteric	Diarrhoea	Phthisis	Puerperal	Erysipelas	Other forms Tuberculosis	Total
1939				3				1				4
1940		1						2				3
1941					2	1		3			1	7

TABLE V11 (a)

Number of Cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year ended Dec 31st 1941.

	0 to 1		1 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 20		20 to 25		25 to 35		35 to 45		45 to 55		55 to 65		65 and upwd		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Pulmonary.															3								3	
Non-Pulmonary.					1	1	1				1												3	1

Transfers from other areas.

Pulmonary												1	1	1									1	2

TABLE V11 (b)

Deaths from Tuberculosis registered during the year ended Dec 31st 1941.

	0 to 1		1 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 20		20 to 25		25 to 35		35 to 45		45 to 55		55 to 65		65 and upwd		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Pulmonary.													1		1		1						3	
Non-Pulmonary.						1																		1

Notification is perfectly satisfactory. The register at the end of 1941 showed as follows :-

Pulmonary Cases	Males 8)	15)	30
	Females 7)	)	
Non Pulmonary Cases	Males 7)	15)	
	Females 8)	)	

The County Council Laboratory examined 35 sputum specimens of which 2 were positive.

No persons suffering from Tuberculosis were found to be engaged in food supply or distribution.
No action under Sect: 172 of Public Health Act 1936.

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SECTION B.

It is desired that Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health shall be brief during the war.

The foregoing tables give many details and I have added footnotes to them. As hospital and laboratory etc., facilities remain unchanged, I need only add short references to :-

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There were 491 attendances at the Centre. This is an average of 19 per session.

The Infant Mortality figure is practically a quarter of that of the country as a whole.

The one maternal death was due to an anesthetic in a hospital outside the area.

ANTI-NATAL CARE SCHEME.

Apart from the visits by the Health Visitor to expectant mothers, there is a considerable increase in the number of mothers who are medically examined under the scheme and at least half now avail themselves of these facilities.

SECTION. C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The district is supplied with water by the Knutsford Light and Water Company, who buy from Manchester Corporation. The water is soft with a low salinity, and is of exceptionally high degree of organic purity. No extensions of mains were made during the year, and the supply has always been sufficient.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND SCAVENGING.

All ashbins and pail closets are cleansed weekly, a number of bins at the hotels and large shops being emptied twice weekly.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no licensed camping sites in the District and the number of gypsies camping on roadsides has reduced to practically nil.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the Town.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

No nuisances have arisen in respect of Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

THE ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the general inspection of the district one house was found to be infested with bugs. The house was treated with insecticide and effectively cleared. The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Council's Workmen under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

All the sewerage from the Urban District is carried by gravitating sewers to the disposal works on the north-east boundary of the Town, where the treatment has been carried out quite satisfactorily during the past year.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the schools are above suspicion as to the cause of infectious disease. The lavatory accommodation and closets are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and all elementary schools are disinfected during the summer holidays.

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

No plans were submitted during the year, and house construction has been nil.

The usual routine inspections were carried out and a number of informal notices issued which had the desired effect.

Generally speaking the housing conditions in the Town are quite satisfactory.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

During the year the farms and dairies have been visited at various times, and continue to be kept in a satisfactory manner.

The sampling of the milk is undertaken by the Weights and Measures Department of the County Council, but no cases of adulterations were reported during the year.

VETERINARY INSPECTION OF CATTLE.

The veterinary inspection of cattle is not now carried out by the County Council. Seperate statistics are not kept for the various districts regarding milk samples for bacterial content and tubercle bacilli, but the County Medical Officer confirms that samples of milk have been examined from each farm holding an accredited licence.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

All the slaughterhouses in the area are closed and no animals have been slaughtered in the area during the year. The various butchers in the town receive their supplies from the allocation depot at Altrincham.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 12 Bakehouses in use in the district. These premises have been inspected periodically during the year, and notices requesting the occupiers to limewash the walls have been served at stated periods, and as occasion has required. The premises have been kept clean generally, and have been limewashed in accordance with the regulations.

SECTION F. - INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against diphtheria has gone ahead during the year.

About 90% of the children are now immunized and this does not mean 90% of school children only.

SANITARY STAFF.

This is unchanged. As usual I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Butler, the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for his excellent work throughout the year, also for his assistance in compiling this Report.

ARTHUR T. BLEASE.

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